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happily chosen. No one was more happy in choosing such names, in general, than Dr. PETERS, who discovered so many of these bodies. Immediately after returning from the Transit of *Venus* expedition, he discovered two planets,—*Adeona* and *Vibilia*,—in one night. *Adeona* is the patroness of home-coming, and *Vibilia* the patroness of ways—of journeyings. The name of his asteroid *Miriam* (who was the sister of *Moses*) was chosen in defiance of rule, and of malice aforethought; so that he could tell a theological professor, whom he thought to be too pious, that *Miriam*, also, was “a mythological personage.”

*Juewa*, discovered by WATSON in China in 1874, is out of Chinese mythology; and *Freia* (D'ARREST, 1862) and *Frigga* (PETERS, 1862) from Scandinavian. I do not find *Polana* (discovered by PALISA at Pola in 1875) in any mythology, and she probably is an invented patroness of her city, Pola. *Gallia* (HENRY, at Paris, 1875,) is an evident departure from the strict rule. From about this time onward such departures are frequent. *Hilda*, *Bertha*, *Eva*, *Irma*, *Elsa*, *Lamberta*, *Martha*, *Isabella*, *Bianca*, *Stephania*, *Lucia*, *Rosa*, *Henrietta*, *Barbara*, *Carolina*, *Ida*, *Bettina*, *Clementina*, *Mathilde*, *Augusta*, *Huberta*, *Anna*, *Aline*, *Antonia*, *Elvira*, *Paulina*, *Lucretia*,\* *Clorinda*, *Emma*, *Amelia*, *Alice*, *Baptistine*, *Geraldine*, *Dorothea*, *Clarissa*, *Olga*, *Gordonia*, *Margarita*, *Goberta*, *Katharina*, *Chicago*, etc., (all adopted names of asteroids), may, some of them, have a right in a list of heavenly bodies, but many of them, at least, read like the Christian names in a girls' school.

No doubt the departure from a strictly classical nomenclature has gone too far to be corrected now, but there is no question the departure is, on the whole, to be regretted; and, although the matter of nomenclature is a minor one, it is worth while to keep it as impersonal as possible in the future. The abuses to which a contrary course might lead are only too evident.

E. S. H.

#### LICK OBSERVATORY EXPEDITION TO OBSERVE THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF AUGUST, 1896, IN JAPAN.

An expedition to observe the total solar eclipse of August, 1896, will be sent from the LICK Observatory, under the direction of Professor J. M. SCHAEBERLE. The expedition has been

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\* Named in honor of LUCRETIA CAROLINE HERSCHEL.

authorized by the Regents of the University, and its expenses will be met from a fund generously offered by Colonel C. F. CROCKER, a member of the Regents' Committee on the LICK Observatory.\*

The programme of the expedition will be wholly photographic. Professor SCHAEBERLE will make large-scale photographs of the corona with a lens of forty-foot focus, on the plan which was so successful in Chile in 1893; and smaller scale pictures (some on standardized plates) will be taken with the five-inch FLOYD photographic telescope.

Mr. BURCKHALTER, Director of the Chabot Observatory, Oakland, will photograph the corona on a plan described by him in these *Publications*, Vol. VII, 1896, page 157, with a special photographic telescope, of four inches aperture and twenty feet focus (provided at the expense of Hon. WILLIAM M. PIERSON, of San Francisco). A portion of Mr. BURCKHALTER's apparatus is provided by a gift from Mrs. PHOEBE HEARST.

Dr. G. E. SHUEY and Mr. LOUIS C. MASTEN have volunteered to accompany the expedition (at their own cost), to serve as assistants to Professor SCHAEBERLE and Mr. BURCKHALTER, and to manage the smaller instruments. Professor H. TERAU, Director of the Imperial Observatory of Tokyo, has kindly offered to select a member of the staff of his observatory to accompany the LICK Observatory Expedition, as one of its members, to its station in Japan.

It is to be hoped that the expedition may meet with good weather, and return with results which will reward its efforts.

E. S. H.

MOUNT HAMILTON, January 17, 1896.

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\* It will be remembered that the LICK Observatory, Eclipse Expedition to Cayenne in December, 1889, was also sent at the expense of Colonel CROCKER.